

Message Text

SECRET

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65-44

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

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P 291030Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 3313

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO EGYPT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS TUNISIA PRIORITY

S E C R E T MANAMA 1079

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, BA, LE

SUBJECT : BAHRAINI FOREIGN MINISTER ON LEBANON

1. IN LIGHT OPTIMISTIC REPORTS ON VOA MORNING JULY 29
BAHRAINI FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON LEBANESE SITUATION
JULY 28 MAY BE OF INTEREST. IT APPARENT HIS ROLE IN MEDIATION
EFFORT IS FADING AND WE HAVE NO WAY OF ASSESSING HOW CLOSELY
IN TOUCH HE STILL IS, BUT WE UNDERSTAND HE WAS FREQUENTLY IN
CONTACT WITH MORE INFLUENTIAL CHARACTERS IN MEDIATION
EFFORT UP UNTIL LAST WEEK AT LEAST.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER JULY 28 CONTINUED TO EXPRESS OPTIMISM
THAT COLLECTIVE ARAB EFFORT TO BRING PEACE TO LEBANON WILL
ULTIMATELY SUCCEED BUT SAW NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS FOR SOLUTION.
HE FELT LEBANESE, AND PALESTINIANS, WOULD SIMPLY HAVE TO
EXHAUST THEMSELVES IN BATTLE SOMEWHAT FURTHER. AS IN THE PAST
HE FINGERED CHAMOUN AND JUMBLATT AS THE VILLIANS IN THE PIECE.
FOREIGN MINISTER PRAISED ASSAD'S ROLE WHILE LAMENTING THE
INEVITABLE FIX SYRIAN REGIME HAD GOTTEN ITSELF IN, BUT HE FELT

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IT ESSENTIAL SYRIAN FORCES REMAIN IN THOSE AREAS OF LEBANON

WHICH LEBANESE LEFTISTS AND PALESTINIANS WOULD OTHERWISE
REGAIN, THUS CREATING IMPOSSIBLE NEGOTIATING SITUATION IN WHICH
CHRISTIANS WOULD HAVE THEIR BACKS TO THE WALL. AS IN PAST
FOREIGN MINISTER SUGGESTED KEY TO SETTLEMENT WAS PALESTINIAN
WILLINGNESS TO COME TO TERMS WITH SYRIA BUT FELT THIS
WOULD BE NON-STARTER UNTIL EXTREMIST ELEMENTS IN PLO BECOME
SO BATTERED THAT ARAFAT OR SOMEONE CAN REGAIN EFFECTIVE
KONTROL OVER THEM.

3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT TO OTHER APPROPRIATE
ADDRESSEES IF ABOVE INSIGHT APPEARS OF MERIT.

TWINAM

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